

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 /022 W

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R 261240Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4522

DOD WASHDC

INFO CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, SA

SUBJECT: DOD VISITORS

REF: A) HQ DA//DACS-SA 071951Z APR 76

B) SECDEF 231547Z APR 76

SUMMARY: LATHOUGH SAG IS STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP WITH RECORD NUMBERS OF OFFICIAL VISITORS, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELPFUL IN RESPONDING TO VISIT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY PUTS FORWARD. WE HAVE RECEIVED, HOWEVER, UNOFFICIAL APPEALS FROM SAUDI OFFICIALS THAT NUMBER OF U.S. OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS AND SIZE OF ACCOMPANYING PARTIES BE REDUCED. SINCE JANUARY, FOR INSTANCE, SAG HAS HOSTED FOUR HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY VISITS PLUS NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE FOR TOTAL OF MORE THAN SIXTY PEOPLE (EXCLUDING AIR CREWS) AND TWELVE GENERAL OFFICERS. LEST SAG BECOME INDIFFERENT TO HIGH-LEVEL DOD VISITS, WE RECOMMEND THAT PROPOSED VISITS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MCCLARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ARMY BROWNMEN BE COMBINED WITH ANY TRAVEL PLANS TO SAUDI ARABIA BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL: SAG HAS RECENTLY BEEN INUNDATED WITH OFFICIAL VISITORS, AND ITS VERY LIMITED RESOURCES HAVE BEEN STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT. WHILE SAG HAS ALWAYS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR OUR LARGE NUMBER OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS, THE EMBASSY
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HAS RECEIVED UNOFFICIAL APPEALS FOR RELIEF FROM NOT

ONLY THE LARGE NUMBER OF SEPARATE VISITS, BUT ALSO THE SIZE OF THE PARTIES ACCOMPANYING THOSE VISITORS.

2. DOD AND OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT THE EMBASSY CANNOT SUPPORT HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS WITHOUT SAUDI ASSISTANCE. WE CANNOT, FOR EXAMPLE, OBTAIN HOTEL RESERVATIONS WITHOUT A MONTH'S ADVANCE NOTICE UNLESS THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OR ROYAL PROTOCOL INTERCEDES ON OUR BEHALF, AND THESE ARE NOT ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST SINCE THEIR TAKING ROOMS MAY FORCE OTHERS TO GO WITHOUT.

3. EMBASSY FEELS STRONGLY THAT TO CONTINUE TO IMPOSE UPON THE SAG FOR VISITS WHICH ARE CLEARLY PRIMARILY FOR AREA ORIENTATION AND DO NOT INCLUDE SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS WILL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. EMBASSY THEREFORE URGES THAT DOD REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF SEPARATE VISITS, COMBINE SEVERAL VISITS INTO ONE, AND KEEP THE DELEGATIONS ACCOMPANYING THE VISITORS TO THE BARE MINIMUM. (AS WELL, SINCE SAUDI CUSTOM PREVENTS SOCIAL MIXING OF SEXES, WIVES SHOULD NOT ACCOMPANY VISITORS TO SAUDI ARABIA. WHEN THEY DO SO THEY ARE EXCLUDED FROM SOCIAL FUNCTIONS HOSTED BY THE SAUDIS, AND ADD TO THE BURDEN OF THE EMBASSY, AND OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HERE, SINCE SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE FOR THEM.)

4. HIGH-LEVEL DOD VISITS - 1976: A SUMMARY OF HIGH-LEVEL DOD VISITORS SINCE JANUARY 1976 FOLLOWS:

A. 18-20 JAN GENERAL ROBERT E. HUYSER, DEPUTY, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF UNITED STATES FORCES, EUROPE; MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES RYDER; MR. GEORGE MULLER, FSO-1; BRIG.GENERAL ROBERT L. WETZEL; BRIG.GENERAL ALONZO WALTER, JR.; AND EIGHT OTHERS.

B. 13-14 FEB GENERAL JOHN R. DEANE, COMMANDER, ARMY MATERIAL COMMAND; MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH E. FIX; AND FOUR OTHERS.

C. 20-24 MARCH MR. AMOS A. JORDAN, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS; LT.GENERAL HOWARD M. FISH; MR. JAMES H. NOYES; AND NINE OTHERS.

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D. 5-7 APRIL GENERAL F. MICHAEL ROGERS, COMMANDER AIR FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND; LT.GENERAL ROBERT E. HAILS; MAJOR GENERAL JOHN R. KELLY, JR.; MAJOR GENERAL FRANK G. BARNES; BRIG.GENERAL ROBERT SCURLOCK AND EIGHT OTHERS.
E. 25-28 APRIL NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE, GROUP OF 18.

5. VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ARMY BROWMAN (REF A): CHIEF USMTM HAS BEEN ASKED BY MODA PRINCE

SULTAN FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING PROPOSED VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ARMY BROWNMEN. THE SUBJECT OF THE VISIT WAS REFERRED BY STATE TO THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WITH A REQUEST FOR AN EXPRESSION OF SAUDI INTEREST. INQUIRIES NOW APPARENTLY HAVE FILTERED DOWN THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO MODA AND A RESPONSE IS PRESUMABLY WORKING ITS WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON. DEPARTMENT OF STATE MAY RECEIVE THE SAUDIS' COMMENTS PRESENTLY. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT REGARDLESS OF THE SAUDI REPLY, THE VISIT SHOULD BE POSTPONED, PERHAPS WITH SECRETARY BROWNMEN COMING OUT AS A MEMBER OF SECDEF RUMSFELD'S PARTY IF HE VISITS SAUDI ARABIA AS HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY DISCUSSED.

6. VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MCCLARY AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SATO (REF B):
WORD OF MR. MCCLARY'S VISIT REACHED POST AS MESSAGE ON BROWNMEN WAS IN PREPARATION. FOR EITHER OF THESE VISITS TO HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT -- THAT IS TO HOLD RATHER THAN DISSIPATE SAUDI ATTENTION -- WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE MERGED WITH ANY PLANS OF SECDEF RUMSFELD'S. IF VISITS CONTINUE AT RATE INDICATED PARA 4, SAG WILL SOON STOP RETURNING OUR CALLS.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA03005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760158-0074
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760423/aaaaatav.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOD VISITORS
TAGS: OTRA, MILI, SA
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006